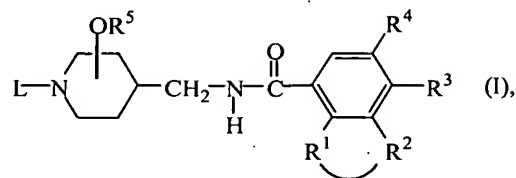


## Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

-R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>- is a bivalent radical of formula

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-1),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-2),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-3),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-4),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-5),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-6),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-7),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-8),

wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl or hydroxy,

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1</sub>-4alkyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl substituted with cyano, or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyloxy; C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl)amino;

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl, and the -OR<sup>5</sup> radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is hydrogen, or L is a radical of formula

-Alk-R<sup>6</sup> (b-1),

-Alk-X-R<sup>7</sup> (b-2),

-Alk-Y-C(=O)-R<sup>9</sup> (b-3), or

-Alk-Z-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup> (b-4),

wherein each Alk is C<sub>1</sub>-12alkanediyl; and

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen; hydroxy; cyano; C<sub>3</sub>-6cycloalkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-6alkylsulfonylamino; aryl or Het;

R<sup>7</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl; C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl substituted with hydroxy; C<sub>3</sub>-6cycloalkyl; aryl or Het;

X is O, S, SO<sub>2</sub> or NR<sup>8</sup>; said R<sup>8</sup> being hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl;

R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-6cycloalkyl, hydroxy or aryl;

Y is a direct bond, or NR<sup>10</sup> wherein R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl;

Z is a direct bond, O, S, or NR<sup>10</sup> wherein R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl;

R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> each independently are hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, or R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> combined with the nitrogen atom bearing R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> may form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl or 4-morpholinyl ring both being optionally substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

aryl represents unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, amino, aminocarbonyl, and aminosulfonyl; and

Het is furanyl; furanyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or halo;

tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydrofuranyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

dioxolanyl; dioxolanyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

dioxanyl; dioxanyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

tetrahydropyranyl; tetrahydropyranyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-imidazolyl; 2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-1H-imidazolyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

pyrrolidinyl; pyrrolidinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

pyridinyl; pyridinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

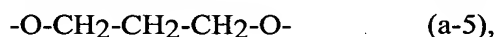
pyrimidinyl; pyrimidinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

pyridazinyl; pyridazinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or halo;

pyrazinyl; pyrazinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or halo.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein

-R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>- is a bivalent radical of formula

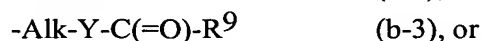


R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, halo, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted with cyano, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and the -OR<sup>5</sup> radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is hydrogen, or L is a radical of formula



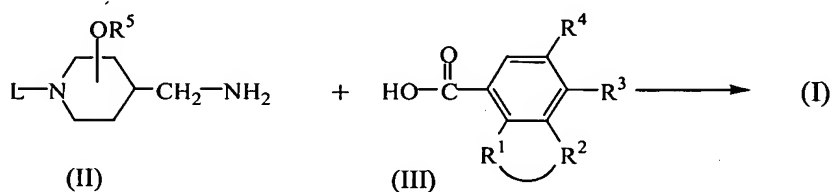
wherein each Alk is C<sub>1-12</sub>alkanediyl; and  
R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen; hydroxy; cyano; C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonylamino; aryl or Het;  
R<sup>7</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted with hydroxy; C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl; aryl or Het;  
X is O, S, SO<sub>2</sub> or NR<sup>8</sup>; said R<sup>8</sup> being hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
R<sup>9</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or hydroxy;  
Y is a direct bond;  
Z is a direct bond or O;  
R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> each independently are hydrogen, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> combined with the nitrogen atom bearing R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> may form a pyrrolidinyl, or piperazinyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
aryl represents unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, and aminosulfonyl; and  
Het is tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydrofuranyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
dioxolanyl; dioxolanyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
pyridinyl; pyridinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
pyrimidinyl; pyrimidinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
pyridazinyl; pyridazinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or halo;  
pyrazinyl; pyrazinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or halo.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the -OR<sup>5</sup> radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.
4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 3 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).
5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1 wherein -R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>- is a radical of formula (a-5); R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen; R<sup>4</sup> is methyl; and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.
6. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein L is a radical of formula (b-2) wherein X is O, Alk is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanediyl and R<sup>7</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl.
7. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to ~~any of~~ claims 1 to 6.
8. (Cancelled)

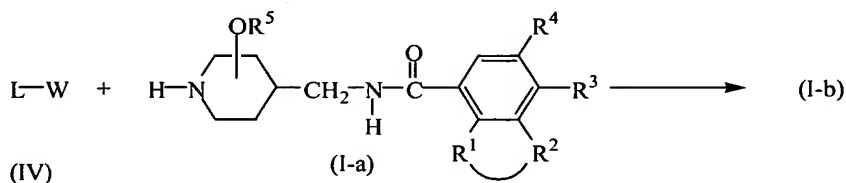
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein

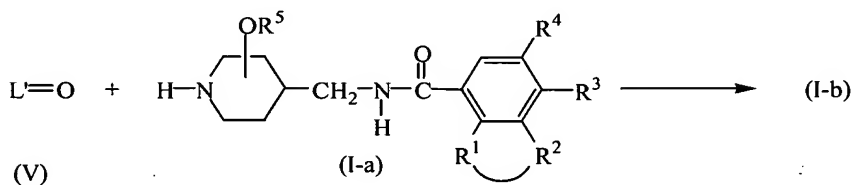
- a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with a carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



- b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with a compound of formula (I-a), defined as a compound of formula (I) wherein L represents hydrogen, in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base, thereby yielding compounds of formula (I-b), defined as compounds of formula (I) wherein L is other than hydrogen;



- c) an appropriate ketone or aldehyde intermediate of formula  $\text{L}'=\text{O}$  (V), said  $\text{L}'=\text{O}$  being a compound of formula  $\text{L}-\text{H}$ , wherein two geminal hydrogen atoms in the  $\text{C}_{1-12}$ alkanediyl moiety are replaced by  $=\text{O}$ , is reacted with a compound of formula (I-a), thereby yielding compounds of formula (I-b);



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals  $-\text{R}^1-\text{R}^2-$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

- d) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a

compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

11. (New) A method for the treatment of 5HT<sub>4</sub> related disorders comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
12. (New) A method for treating patients suffering from gastrointestinal conditions comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
13. (New) A method for treating hypermotility, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation or diarrhea predominant IBS, pain and non-pain predominant IBS and bowel hypersensitivity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.